

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 IO-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-01 ORM-01 SR-02

EB-04 SWF-01 AGR-05 PC-01 /087 W

----- 120581

R 051504Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9226

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USINT ALGIERS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NIAMEY 3709

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF NG ML

SUBJECT: MALI MINISTER THANKS NIGER FOR AID TO MALIAN REFUGEES

REF: NIAMEY 3567 AND PREVIOUS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. MALI MINISTER INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
MAMADY KEITA ARRIVED NIAMEY NOV 2. OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE OF
TRIP WAS IN CONNECTION WITH NIGER RIVER COMMISSION. NIGER
GOVERNMENT USED OCCASION HOWEVER TO RAISE SUBJECT MALIAN
REFUGEES.

2. MALIAN MINISTER WAS INVITED VISIT LAZARET CAMP SOON
AFTER ARRIVAL. AT CAMP HE ADDRESSED MALIAN REFUGEES (CURRENTLY
ESTIMATED AT 13,000 BY GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER) IN PRESENCE NUMBER
OF GON OFFICIALS. HIS SPEECH REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED PRAISE AND
GRATITUDE FOR GON GENEROSITY IN CARING FOR MALIANS WITH EXHORTA-
TIONS TO HIS COUNTRYMEN TO RETURN HOME.

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3. AT END OF GON NEWSPAPER ARTICLE REPORTING ON KEITA'S VISIT AND SPEECH AT LAZARET, THERE WAS QUOTE FROM MAY 18 INTERVIEW OF COL. KOUNTCHE WHERE HE SAID THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MALIANS AND NIGERIENS AND THAT NIGER WOULD TAKE NO INITIATIVE IN RE-INTEGRATING MALIAN REFUGEES INTO MALI. WE LEAVE TO MALIAN AUTHORITIES TO TAKE WHATEVER DECISIONS THEY CONSIDER BEST. WE ARE ALL AFRICANS AND IN THE SPIRIT OF AFRICAN BROTHERHOOD MALIAN REFUGEES CAN CONTINUE TO LIVE IN NIGER AS LONG AS THEY WISH. ARTICLE REITERATES THAT NIGER POLICY HAS NOT CHANGED AND RETURN OF MALIANS STILL DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON GOVERNMENT OF MALI. END UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMENT: MINISTER KEITA'S PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS TO NIGERIENS ALONG WITH HINTS OF APOLOGY FOR BELATED RECOGNITION BY GOM OF NIGER'S EFFORTS ON BEHALF REFUGEES, HAVE TO LARGE EXTENT MOLLIFIED GON'S RUFFLED FEELINGS. NIGERIENS NOW PROBABLY WILLING IGNORE PREVIOUS CRITICISMS BY GOM OFFICIALS AND WILL LET MATTER REST. BUT WE WONDER WHETHER GOM ALSO SEES IT THAT WAY.HECK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, AMITY, POLITICAL SITUATION, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NIAMEY03709
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740317-0767
From: NIAMEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741170/aaaachou.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NIAMEY 3567 AND PREVIOUS
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <11 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MALI MINISTER THANKS NIGER FOR AID TO MALIAN REFUGEES
TAGS: SREF, NG, ML, (KEITA, MAMADY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005